

## National Republican

W. J. MURTAGH, Editor and Proprietor.

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All communications, whether on business or for publication, should be addressed to W. J. MURTAGH, Proprietor, NATIONAL REPUBLICAN, Washington, D. C.

THE NATIONAL REPUBLICAN HAS A LARGER CIRCULATION THAN ANY OTHER DAILY PAPER IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

SATURDAY MORNING, MARCH 13, 1875.

PHIL SHERIDAN will be back in New Orleans in about a fortnight, just in time to see how the Wheeler compromise goes into full effect.

AN EXCHANGE, says: "It is curious to note that the Democrats who named their own members have designated Cockrell of Missouri who served in the rebel army as a member of the Committee on Military Affairs."

JOHN B. DEMMEY, the would-be murderer and suicide, died yesterday afternoon, at Providence hospital, from the effects of his self-inflicted wounds. The facts of the case as they have been given to the public point a moral without reading comment necessary.

THE ACTIVITY with which the Opposition press seize upon and print paragraphs to show that any of the newly-elected Senators are not in thorough accord with the majority of the Republican party is something new to the ludicrous. Let them print this: The Hon. August Cameron, who succeeds Matt. Carpenter, is a better and a truer Republican than his predecessor.

THE NEWS from New Hampshire seems to have dampened the ardor of the Democracy of North Carolina in their efforts to secure a revision of the constitution of the State. They seem to believe that the people of the North are, after all, a little more Republican than the Southern Forty-third Congress. The calling of the convention again becomes a "question of policy."

WE BEGIN to see something more than the shadow of the hand that dictated the appointment of Fitz John Porter to a lucrative political office in New York city. Among Porter's first appointments was Fernando Wood, Jr., to be superintendent of the dam and aqueduct of Croton lake. There is nothing remarkably strange in this when we remember the relative positions of the senior Wood and Porter during the war.

THE Richmond *Whig* quotes from our columns an allusion to President Grant: "A certain demand that some man of his 'pith and marrow' be elected," and asks: "what does that mean?" In the same article from which the *Whig* quotes, the following sentence occurs:

"There are plenty of men of this kind now in the ranks of the Republican party who have not been long out of the Democratic ranks to forget exactly what kind of management is required to successfully cope with the strategy of the latter organization."

THE MORTUARY of the District breathed more freely yesterday afternoon when the fact of the arrest of the abductress Oakley and the recovery of the stolen child was made known. On all sides the officers were praised without stint for the successful steps they had taken. She will be tried on the charge of kidnapping, the extreme punishment for which in seven years in the penitentiary, and the probability is that the full extent of the penalty will follow her conviction. Let the trial proceed as soon as possible, and let an example be made of her which others similarly inclined will remember with fear.

THE DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS, in their endeavors to reduce expenses, have thought it worth while to make an examination regarding the manner in which the expenses of the public schools may be lessened. It is perfectly proper that they should be economical in the disbursement of the money intrusted to them, but they should bear the fact in mind that the people of this District have cheerfully borne the tax imposed to establish and continue our system of public education and living it to its present perfect condition. As a whole, they would prefer that if expenses must be reduced, it should be in some other branch than the schools of which they are so justly proud.

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IT IS BARELY possible that an Indian war may be provoked in the Black Hills as the spring months open with warmer weather, and it is barely possible that several prominent Democratic journals designed to provoke it by the publication of exciting reports about the war in the Black Hills in that region. One thing is certain, however, and that is the continuation of the honest endeavors of the Government to prevent the invasion of the Hills, which are within prescribed Indian reservations, by white adventurers. Whether these endeavors will be successful is another question. The Western Territories are overrunning with men seeking new fields of fortune, whose cupidity will nerve them to endure the dangers of Indian warfare, and arouse them to ingenious methods of eluding the vigilance of the army.

IN ALLUDING to the work of the Forty-third Congress, the Nashville *Union* and *American* says: "The machinery devised by Grant for the coming Presidential election was broken in various ways," and that "the defeat of the bill for equalizing the duties, which was a measure 'bid for the soldier vote' is another item that spoils the Radical programme. The leaders in both Houses, even including the immaculate Vice President Wilson, were committed to this three hundred million scheme; but they can make no political capital out of it because the Southern States are not, like the Southern negro, to be fooled with unfulfilled promises." How palpably inconsistent this! The *Union* must know that President Grant vetoed the bounty bill, and if it was intended, as the *Union* asserts, "as an enormous bid for the soldier vote," he must be credited with having broken every significant item of the machinery devised. But this is a piece of the machinery of the Opposition press when they presume to consider the general policy or any special act of the Administration. The "political capital" to be made out of

this special act, if any was sought, will result from a thorough appreciation of the honest motives which prompted the President to interfere to prevent an extraordinary, and perhaps extravagant, drain on the Treasury at a time when the resources of the country are being strained to meet the requirements of absolute necessities. But if the Opposition feels so awful bad about this, they will have the opportunity in the next House, in which they have a majority, to aid in another passage of the law.

**THE DISTRICT LABORERS.** Some misrepresentations of facts regarding the indebtedness of the government of the District to its laborers have lately been made public which are calculated to mislead and perhaps to deceive many innocent and confiding persons. The Commissioners for the government of the District were charged with the responsible duty of paying direct to the laborers certain sums of money due to those laborers by the contractors who had employed them and neglected or refused to pay them. An appropriation of money to be used in this manner was made by Congress, and the money was conscientiously used for the purpose indicated by the act of Congress. The Commissioners could do no more and no less. In the case of one contractor, for example, the Commissioners found that he was indebted to his laborers to the amount of \$35,000, but that the District government was indebted to the contractor only to the amount of \$10,000. They accordingly paid the contractor each one a *pro rata* sum of the \$10,000 due him, until the \$15,000 were exhausted. Another contractor, it was discovered, owed his laborers \$15,000; but as the District government had already settled accounts with him, and was not indebted to him, the Commissioners were not authorized to pay his laborers out of the money. A strict compliance with law, all the money appropriated by Congress for this purpose was expended. These payments, with others, resulted in the settlement of all the accounts against the District government, so far as the laborers are concerned, so that it does not owe a single laborer a single cent to his laborers. If any contractor has failed to settle with his laborers and now owes them anything, the District government has nothing to do with it except to protect the laborers in their suits against those contractors properly brought before the proper courts. The Commissioners, having done their duty in the matter as required by law, are not bound to pay to the laborers the money which they are owed. The following letters relative to this subject will be read with interest, as they contain detailed statements of all the facts and figures connected with the matter:

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, Washington, February 18, 1875.  
Hon. S. P. COVINGTON, House of Representatives of the United States.  
Sir: In answer to your inquiry relating to the matters embraced in House of Representatives miscellaneous document number 82, (claims of workmen against the late Board of Public Works), we have the honor to advise you that the claims of workmen under the late Board of Public Works and under the late District government for services rendered, which have been presented to the Commissioners since the organization of the present government, and the proof of service was satisfactory, and an examination of the proper records showed that the claimants had not been previously paid, have been audited and paid.

An amount audited and paid to the officers, employees and laborers of the late Board of Public Works is \$315,223.85, and of the late District government \$297,434.17, making together a sum of \$612,658.02, as stated in our report to the President, dated March 10, 1875, House of Representatives, Forty-third Congress, second session, page 4. We have to add that in our opinion all outstanding claims of laborers under the late Board of Public Works and under the late District government, if there are any, such as are audited and paid out of the taxes or other revenues of the District of Columbia by virtue of the second session of the act of Congress, approved June 30, 1874, entitled "An act to provide for the payment of the claims of laborers of the District of Columbia, and for other purposes."

You will please note that we refer in this communication to the laborers of the District, as well as to the laborers of the Board of Public Works, although the miscellaneous document calling for this answer refers only to the latter. Very respectfully,  
J. H. KENTHALL,  
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AUDITOR'S OFFICE, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, Washington, D. C.

THE DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS, in their endeavors to reduce expenses, have thought it worth while to make an examination regarding the manner in which the expenses of the public schools may be lessened. It is perfectly proper that they should be economical in the disbursement of the money intrusted to them, but they should bear the fact in mind that the people of this District have cheerfully borne the tax imposed to establish and continue our system of public education and living it to its present perfect condition. As a whole, they would prefer that if expenses must be reduced, it should be in some other branch than the schools of which they are so justly proud.

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## FOR RENT

**OFFICE ROOMS FOR RENT IN PLANTY.** A new building, opposite the Treasury, on F street, near 11th, 12th and 13th streets. Apply to J. J. MURTAGH, 11th and 12th streets, near 11th and 12th streets.